

# Kentucky Agri-News

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Featuring: ► Prospective Plantings ► Agricultural Prices ► Livestock Slaughter  
► Hogs & Pigs ► Grain Stocks

## MARCH 1 PLANTING INTENTIONS

### U.S. HIGHLIGHTS

**Corn** producers intend to plant 86.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2008, down 8 percent from last year when corn planted area was the highest since 1944.

**Soybean** producers intend to plant 74.8 million acres in 2008, up 18 percent from last year, but 1 percent below the record high acreage in 2006.

**Winter wheat** planted acreage was 46.8 million acres, 4 percent above last year.

**Burley** tobacco growers intend to set 97,200 acres, 9 percent below last year and down 6 percent from 2006. If realized, this will be the lowest burley acreage on record.

Farmers intend to plant 1.23 million acres of **corn**, a decrease of 220,000 acres from 2007. The decrease in corn acreage was offset by the increase in soybean acreage.

**Soybean** acreage was expected to total 1.33 million acres, an increase of 230,000 acres from the previous year.

**Burley tobacco** growers intend to set 71,000 acres for harvest, down 6,000 acres from the 2007 crop.

As burley acreage decreased, dark tobacco acreage was expected to increase. Acreage set to **dark-fired tobacco** at 10,000 acres was up 2,000 from 2007 and the acreage set to **dark-air tobacco** at 6,300 acres was up 2,100 acres.

### KENTUCKY

Planting intentions for corn and soybeans were mixed for the 2008 crop season. Farmers intend to plant more acreage to soybeans and fewer acres of corn. Winter wheat seeded and intended acreage cut for hay were both up from 2007. Tobacco, grain sorghum and barley acreages were down. The Intentions Survey represents acreage farmers intend to plant and/or harvest as of March 1. Winter wheat and barley were seeded in the fall of 2007.

**Grain sorghum** planted acreage totaled 8,000 acres, down 7,000 acres from the 2007 crop. **Barley** seeded acreage at 8,000 acres was down 2,000 acres from the previous year. Farmers intend to harvest 2.75 million acres of **all hay**, up 50,000 acres from the 2007 record high year. The acreage of all hay harvested during a summer depends to a great measure on the moisture received during the growing season and temperatures experienced. With a drier summer farmers will cut more hay to feed their cattle. Many farmers in the state will try to replenish hay supplies that they exhausted this past winter.

**Winter wheat** seeded in the fall of 2007 totaled a revised 560,000 acres, up 120,000 acres from the 2007 seeded crop. This would be the largest seeded acreage in eight years.

### MARCH 1, 2008 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS-PLANTED ACRES, KENTUCKY & UNITED STATES

CROPS	KENTUCKY			UNITED STATES		
	2007	Ind. 2008	08 % of 07	2007	Ind. 2008	08 % of 07
	(Thousand Acres)		Percent	(Thousand Acres)		Percent
Corn	1,450	1,230	85	93,600	86,014	92
Soybeans	1,100	1,330	121	63,631	74,793	118
All Sorghum	15	8	53	7,718	7,415	96
All Hay 1/	2,700	2,750	102	61,625	60,583	98
All Tobacco 1/	89.2	87.3	98	356.0	350.9	99
Burley Tobacco 1/	77.0	71.0	92	106.3	97.2	91
All Wheat 2/	440	560	127	60,433	63,803	106
Barley 2/	10	8	80	4,020	4,147	103

1/ Harvested acreage. 2/ Includes acreage planted preceding fall.

# KENTUCKY GRAIN PRICES ADVANCE WHILE LIVESTOCK PRICES SLIDE

Farmers in **Kentucky** continued to receive good prices for their corn, soybeans and winter wheat. Livestock prices were all down with the exception of sows.

Cattle prices turned lower after an upturn during February. **Steers and heifers** 500 lbs. and over averaged \$91.00 per cwt. (hundredweight) for mid-March. This was down \$3.00 from February and \$2.00 from March 2007. **Beef cow** price was \$49.00 per cwt. at mid-month, down \$1.00 from the previous month while up \$5.00 from a year earlier. **Calves** less than 500 pounds were down in price along with other cattle. They averaged \$109.00 per cwt., down \$2.00 from February and \$3.00 from March 2007.

Barrows and gilts and sows continue to be mixed at mid-month. **Barrows and gilts** averaged \$36.00 per cwt. for mid-March. This was down \$5.00 from February and \$7.00 from the previous year. Price of **sows** was \$30.00 per cwt., an increase of \$3.00 from February while equal in price a year earlier.

Sheep and lamb prices were steady to up slightly from January. The **sheep** price for February at \$37.00 per cwt. was up \$1.00 from January while down \$11.00 from February 2007. The February **lamb** price was \$93.00 per cwt., unchanged from the previous January and down \$11.00 from February a year earlier.

Price of **all milk** continues to decline after hitting a record high price of \$24.00 per cwt. in August 2007. The mid-March price for all milk was \$18.30 per cwt., down \$2.80 per cwt. from February while up \$1.80 from March 2007. The final milk price farmers receive will vary from the projected mid-month milk price due to price changes announced by Milk Marketing Orders, actual milk fat content and quantity sold by milk classes (fluid and various manufactured products).

Grain prices continue to increase. The mid-March **corn** price was \$5.00 per bushel. This would be the second highest corn price on record. The record of \$5.12 per bushel was set in 1996. The mid-month price was up 41 cents from the February price and \$1.16 from March 2007. The **soybean** mid-March price of \$12.50 continues to set a record high price for soybeans. The price was up 40 cents

from the previous month and \$5.52 from March a year earlier. Price of **winter wheat** also continues to set record high prices. The mid-month price was \$9.50 per bushel, up \$4.35 per bushel from February and \$5.33 from March last year.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March, at 150 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 3 points (2.0 percent) from February. The Crop Index is up 8 points (4.9 percent) but the Livestock Index was unchanged. Producers received higher commodity prices for wheat, corn, lettuce, and eggs and lower prices for milk, snap beans, strawberries, and hogs. In addition to prices, the overall index is affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of strawberries, soybeans, milk, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, corn, cotton, and oranges. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 17 points (13 percent) from March 2007. The Food Commodities Index, at 149, increased 3 points (2.1 percent) from last month and increased 15 points (11 percent) from March 2007.

## AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS - (Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY		US	
		MAR 2007	FEB 2008	MAR 2008	MAR 2008
		Entire Month		Mid-Month a/	
All Corn b/ c/	Bu.	3.84	4.59	5.00	4.83
Soybeans b/	Bu.	6.98	12.10	12.50	11.90
Winter Wheat b/	Bu.	4.17	5.15	9.50	11.00
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	140.00	170.00	175.00	143.00
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	80.00	100.00	100.00	128.00
All Hogs	Cwt.	42.50	40.40	35.80	41.20
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	43.00	41.00	36.00	41.90
Sows	Cwt.	30.00	27.00	30.00	25.10
All Beef Cattle d/	Cwt.	81.20	83.40	80.90	88.70
Steers & Heifers e/	Cwt.	93.00	94.00	91.00	93.80
Cows	Cwt.	44.00	50.00	49.00	52.20
Calves f/	Cwt.	112.00	111.00	109.00	120.00
Sheep	Cwt.	43.00	37.00	-	-
Lambs	Cwt.	106.00	93.00	-	-
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	16.50	21.10	18.30	18.30
Hog-Corn Ratios g/	Bu.	11.1	8.8	7.2	8.5

a/ Preliminary. b/ Includes contract sales paid during month. c/ Includes yellow and white corn. d/ "Steers and heifers" and "cows" combined. e/ 500 lbs. and over. f/ Under 500 lbs. g/ Number of bushels of corn equal in value to 100 lbs. of hog live weight.

## RED MEAT PRODUCTION

**Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 3.97 billion pounds in February, up 10 percent from the 3.62 billion pounds produced in February 2007. February 2007 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. February 2008 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

**Beef production**, at 2.04 billion pounds, was 4 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.64 million head, up 3 percent from February 2007. The average live weight was up 11 pounds from the previous year, at 1,285 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.90 billion pounds, up 16 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.38 million head, up 16 percent from February 2007. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year, at 271 pounds.

### COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION 1/

Type	Feb. 2007	Jan. 2008	Feb. 2008	Feb. 08 % of	
	Million Pounds			Feb. 2007	Jan. 2008
Beef	1,952.5	2,232.0	2,039.0	104	91
Veal	12.1	11.3	11.0	91	98
Pork	1,636.3	2,157.8	1,902.6	116	88
Lamb & Mutton	14.4	14.8	15.0	104	102
Total U.S.	3,615.4	4,415.9	3,967.6	110	90
Total Kentucky	38.2	55.0	45.0	118	82

1/Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter.

### COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, FEBRUARY 2007 & 2008 1/

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
<b>Kentucky</b>						
Cattle	1.5	1.6	1,400	1,510	943	951
Hogs	186.9	-	49,582	-	266	-
Sheep & Lambs	0.7	0.7	85	94	126	126
<b>United States</b>						
Cattle	2,561.2	2,643.2	3,249,960	3,383,319	1,274	1,285
Hogs	8,117.3	9,378.1	2,183,764	2,534,773	269	271
Sheep & Lambs	204.7	211.4	28,708	30,111	140	143

1/Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

## MARCH 1 HOG & PIG INVENTORY

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2008, was 65.9 million head. This was up 7 percent from March 1, 2007, but down 2 percent from December 1, 2007.

Breeding inventory, at 6.14 million head, was up less than 1 percent from last year, but down slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 59.8 million head, was up 7 percent from last year, but down 2 percent from last quarter.

The December 2007-February 2008 U.S. pig crop, at 28.1 million head, was up 6 percent from 2007 and up 9 percent from 2006. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 3.05 million head, up 5 percent from 2007 and up 7 percent from 2006. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 50 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was

9.21 for the December 2007-February 2008 period, compared to 9.09 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.30 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 3.05 million sows farrow during the March-May 2008 quarter, up slightly from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2007, and up 4 percent from 2006. Intended farrowings for June-August 2008, at 3.04 million sows, are down 2 percent from 2007 but up 4 percent from 2006.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 40 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 39 percent last year.

**HOGS AND PIGS: INVENTORY NUMBERS BY CLASS & WEIGHT GROUPS  
MARCH 1, 2007 - 2008, SELECTED STATES AND U.S.**

State	TOTAL		BREEDING		MARKET		MARKET HOGS							
	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	Under 60 lbs.		60-119 lbs		120-179 lbs		180 lbs +	
	1,000	% of	1,000	% of	1,000	% of	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Head	2007	Head	2007	Head	2007	(1,000 Head)							
AR	300	109	90	106	210	111	140	160	20	15	15	10	15	25
CO	780	95	155	103	625	93	375	320	100	85	75	80	120	140
IL	4,300	105	450	102	3,850	105	1,310	1,390	890	920	790	830	670	710
IN	3,500	108	320	100	3,180	109	1,070	1,140	730	810	580	630	550	600
IA	18,700	111	1,100	101	17,600	111	4,650	5,420	4,210	4,600	3,780	4,130	3,170	3,450
KS	1,860	101	160	97	1,700	101	575	575	310	370	335	295	465	460
MI	970	98	90	82	880	100	305	320	210	220	180	165	185	175
MN	7,300	106	590	98	6,710	107	2,400	2,640	1,540	1,610	1,330	1,360	1,030	1,100
MO	3,050	107	380	104	2,670	107	1,160	1,240	485	495	500	510	340	425
NE	3,200	103	360	100	2,840	104	1,050	1,040	730	770	530	600	430	430
NC	10,000	106	1,020	99	8,980	107	3,430	3,570	1,850	2,070	1,670	1,820	1,420	1,520
OH	1,830	107	170	103	1,660	107	605	635	380	410	320	370	240	245
OK	2,330	99	360	100	1,970	99	940	970	310	300	220	220	520	480
PA	1,120	101	100	100	1,020	101	300	310	295	295	225	220	190	195
SD	1,430	112	160	114	1,270	111	415	475	260	280	240	260	225	255
TX	1,080	111	115	115	965	111	315	330	205	190	185	200	165	245
WI	410	93	45	82	365	95	155	150	90	85	70	60	70	70
Other <sup>1</sup> / <sub></sub>	3,749	105	473	100	3,275	106	1,186	1,212	741	766	634	683	529	615
U.S.	65,909	107	6,138	100	59,770	107	20,381	21,897	13,356	14,291	11,679	12,443	10,334	11,140

<sup>1</sup>/Individual State estimates not available for the 33 other States. Kentucky included in Other States.

## LARGEST KENTUCKY CORN STOCKS IN THREE YEARS

**Corn** stocks in **Kentucky** totaled 61.0 million bushels on March 1, 2008, up 29 percent from the 47.2 million bushels stored on March 1, 2007. Corn stored on farms totaled 33.0 million bushels, up 8.00 million bushels from a year earlier. Corn stored in off-farm facilities totaled 28.0 million bushels, up 5.85 million bushels from March 2007 and the largest corn stocks since 41.0 million bushels stored on March 1, 1988. Off-farm facilities included grain stored at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors. Soybean and wheat stocks estimates in Kentucky were published only for off-farm stocks. Off-farm stocks of **soybeans** totaled 6.10 million bushels, down 2.72 million bushels from March 2007 and the smallest stocks in three years. Off-farm stocks of **all wheat** was 3.36 million bushels, down 1.41 million bushels from March a year earlier. The current stocks would be the smallest March stocks in five years. Off-farm stocks of **grain sorghum, oats and barley** were not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

**U.S. corn** stocks in all positions on March 1, 2008 totaled 6.86 billion bushels, up 13 percent from March 1, 2007. Of the total stocks, 3.78 billion bushels were stored on farms, up 14 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 3.08 billion bushels, were up 12 percent from a year ago. **Soybeans** stored in all positions on March 1, 2008 totaled 1.43 billion bushels, down 20 percent from March 1, 2007. Soybean stocks stored on farms were estimated at 593 million bushels, down 35 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 835 million bushels were down 5 percent from last March. **All wheat** stored in all positions on March 1, 2008 totaled 710 million bushels, down 17 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks were estimated at 92.0 million bushels, down 52 percent from last March. Off-farm stocks, at 618 million bushels, were down 7 percent from a year ago.

**KENTUCKY AND UNITED STATES STOCKS OF GRAIN, MARCH 1, 2008 WITH COMPARISONS**

KENTUCKY AND UNITED STATES STOCKS OF GRAIN, MARCH 1, 2008 WITH COMPARISONS							
CROP	POSITION	KENTUCKY			UNITED STATES		
		Mar 2007	Dec 2007	Mar 2008	Mar 2007	Dec 2007	Mar 2008
Corn	On-Farm	25,000	90,000	33,000	3,330,000	6,530,000	3,780,000
	Off-Farm <u>1/</u>	22,194	27,472 <u>5/</u>	28,047	2,738,250	3,748,085 <u>5/</u>	3,078,895
	Total	47,194	117,472 <u>5/</u>	61,047	6,068,250	10,278,085 <u>5/</u>	6,858,895
Sorghum	On-Farm	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	17,100	51,400	26,100
	Off-Farm <u>1/</u>	<u>4/</u>	<u>4/</u>	<u>4/</u>	125,122	239,850 <u>5/</u>	159,471
	Total	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	142,222	291,250 <u>5/</u>	185,571
Oats	On-Farm	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	33,900	43,100	31,000
	Off-Farm <u>1/</u>	121	<u>4/</u>	<u>4/</u>	37,158	51,331 <u>5/</u>	48,038
	Total	121	<u>4/</u>	<u>4/</u>	71,058	94,431 <u>5/</u>	79,038
Barley	On-Farm	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	38,310	62,050	28,270
	Off-Farm <u>1/</u>	<u>4/</u>	<u>4/</u>	<u>4/</u>	78,756	73,728 <u>5/</u>	76,540
	Total	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	117,066	135,778 <u>5/</u>	104,810
All Wheat	On-Farm	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	192,450	289,540	91,990
	Off-Farm <u>1/</u>	4,769	5,945	3,364	664,278	842,398 <u>5/</u>	617,650
	Total	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	856,728	1,131,938 <u>5/</u>	709,640
Soybeans	On-Farm	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	910,000	1,100,000	593,000
	Off-Farm <u>1/</u>	8,822	9,138 <u>5/</u>	6,101	876,887	1,231,860 <u>5/</u>	835,102
	Total	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	1,786,887	2,331,860 <u>5/</u>	1,428,102

1/ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors. 2/ Kentucky is a minor State, not published separately. 3/ On-Farm oats stocks estimates not made. 4/ Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations. 5/ Revised.

**Internet Access:** Data including this report are available free of charge on our Internet homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky>. Links to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center and other web sites related to Kentucky Agriculture are also included. National & State reports and data are available on the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service homepage located at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>